

REMARKS/ARGUMENTS

Favorable consideration of this application, as presently amended and in light of the following discussion, is respectfully requested.

Claims 1-9 are presently pending in this application, Claims 1-9 having been amended by the present amendment.

In the outstanding Office Action, Claims 1-9 were rejected under 35 U.S.C. §112, second paragraph, for being indefinite; Claims 1, 4 and 8 were rejected under 35 U.S.C. §102(b) as being anticipated by Ambasz (U.S. Patent 3,982,785); and Claims 2, 3, 5, 6 and 9 were rejected under 35 U.S.C. §103(a) as being unpatentable over Ambasz. However, Claim 7 was indicated as including allowable subject matter.

First, Applicants acknowledge with appreciation the indication that Claim 7 includes allowable subject matter. However, Claim 7 is presently maintained in its dependent form, because Applicants believe that Claim 1 includes allowable subject matter.

With regard to the rejection under 35 U.S.C. §112, second paragraph, Claims 1-9 have been amended to clarify the subject matter recited therein. Thus, Claims 1-9 are believed to be in compliance with the requirements of the statute. Also, these claim amendments are merely cosmetic and thus are not believed to narrow the scopes of the claims. If, however, the Examiner disagrees, the Examiner is invited to telephone the undersigned who will be happy to work in a joint effort to derive mutually satisfactory claim language.

Briefly recapitulating, Claim 1 as amended is directed to a chair with adjustable seat depth, and the chair includes a seat having a rigid seat support plate and a sliding and ductile seat cushion plate having a seat cushion arranged thereon, the sliding and ductile seat cushion plate including a flexible area forming a seat trough, the rigid seat support plate having two lateral guide rails arranged thereon, the sliding and ductile seat cushion plate being provided with guide ribs configured to displace the sliding and ductile seat cushion plate on the two

lateral guide rails, and a sliding improvement device positioned between the rigid seat support plate and the sliding and ductile seat cushion plate for improving sliding characteristics.

The outstanding Office Action asserts that Ambasz discloses a chair as recited in Claim 1. Nevertheless, it is respectfully submitted that Ambasz does not teach "a sliding improvement device positioned between the rigid seat support plate and the sliding and ductile seat cushion plate for improving sliding characteristics" as recited in Claim 1. On the other hand, Ambasz discloses the chair with the seat 28, and the seat 28 has the structural bottom plate 46 and plastic seat cover 47 (see column 4, lines 59-62). According to Ambasz, Reference Numeral 22 is not the support plate, but the guide frame (see Fig. 1 and column 4, line 45), and Ambasz discloses the curved bearing surfaces 54, 56 which can be formed either on the seat 28 and/or the guide frame 22. The bearing surfaces 54, 56 have a low coefficient of sliding friction and may be formed of polytetrafluoroethylene (see column 4, lines 15-22). The bearing surface 54 is located at the bottom (underside) of the structural bottom plate 46 and the bearing surface 56 is located at the upperside of the guide frame 22, but only at the lateral area (see Fig. 2, Fig. 3, Fig. 4, and Fig. 5). As such, the bearing surfaces 54, 56 are clearly not located between the two parts, i.e., the structural bottom plate 46 and seat cover 47 of the seat 28, and in addition, they are not located at the entire surface.

Additionally, the ribs 78 separate the two part of the seat 28, i.e., the ribs 78 separate the seat cover 47 from the bottom plate 46, (see column 5, line 66, to column 6, line 1) in Ambasz. They are continuous and arranged all over the area of the bottom of the seat cover 47. On the contrary, the guide ribs 6 in Claim 1 are spaced ribs which are arranged laterally on the seat cushion plate 6. The "breaking open" of the two lateral guide rails 8 by the plurality of spaced ribs 6 is a necessary support for the sliding so that a movement is actually possible with no linear lateral guide rails 8. Furthermore, the ribs 6 in Claim 1 do not separate

the two parts 1 and 2 of the seat but connect them. The cushion plate 2 recited in Claim 1 is arranged on the seat support plate 1 by introducing the guide ribs 6 of the cushion plate 2 into the lateral guide rails 8 of the seat support plate 1.

Based on the discussions presented above, Applicants respectfully submit that the structure recited in Claim 1 is believed to be clearly distinguishable from Ambasz and thus is not anticipated thereby. Furthermore, because Ambasz fails to disclose the sliding improvement device as recited in Claim 1, the structure recited in Claim 1 is not believed to be rendered obvious from Ambasz.

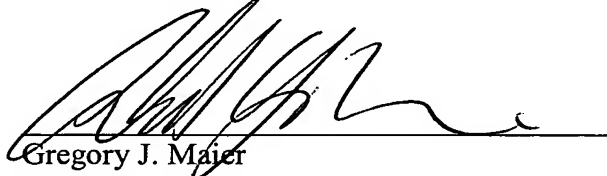
Applicants also wish to point out that the foil and sliding layer 15 as recited in Claims 2 and 4, respectively, are arranged not only at a lateral area, but on the entire surface between the two parts of the seat. Thus, the subject matters recited in Claims 2 and 4 are further distinguishable from Ambasz.

For the foregoing reasons, Claim 1 is believed to be allowable. Furthermore, since Claims 2-9 ultimately depend from Claim 1, substantially the same arguments set forth above also apply to these dependent claims. Hence, Claims 2-9 are believed to be allowable as well.

In view of the amendments and discussions presented above, Applicants respectfully submit that the present application is in condition for allowance, and an early action favorable to that effect is earnestly solicited.

Respectfully submitted,

OBLON, SPIVAK, McCLELLAND,
MAIER & NEUSTADT, P.C.



Gregory J. Maier
Attorney of Record
Registration No. 25,599

Customer Number
22850

Tel: (703) 413-3000
Fax: (703) 413 -2220
(OSMMN 08/03)

Akihiro Yamazaki
Registration No. 46,155

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